ZOOM FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS ZOOM?

Zoom is a video-chatting tool that Durham Public Schools will utilize for virtual Open House events, school-wide events, parent meetings and online classes.

HOW DOES ZOOM WORK?

You can use almost any device, including a phone if it has a camera. The Zoom app can be downloaded by visiting www.zoom.com or the app store. Students will receive all the key information from their teacher, including an 11-digit meeting ID that they just click or tap to get into the class. Before a session, it's always a good idea to open the Zoom software and test your webcam and microphone to make sure they are working properly.

HOW IS MY CHILD'S TEACHER USING ZOOM?

Teachers are using Zoom differently, depending on their students' needs. They may be teaching entire lessons via Zoom or using the time to answer questions about work done outside of Zoom class time.

WHAT IS ZOOMBOMBING?

Zoombombing is when an unauthorized person enters a session and displays inappropriate material using their web camera or the share-screen function. Teachers can prevent Zoombombing by requiring students to register for the Zoom meeting or requiring a password to enter the meeting. Teachers can also disable screen sharing.

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WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO IN ZOOM?

Zoom gives students plenty of tools to interact with each other and the teacher. The students can work together as a class and even break off into smaller groups -- just as if they were sitting with each other in a classroom. Here's a sample of what students can do if these features are enabled:

Share screen - This allows the entire class to view one person's computer screen -- great for students to present to the class.

Whiteboard - This is a brainstorming tool that lets students toss ideas around -- great for student collaboration in group projects.

Breakout rooms - The teacher can divide students up to work in small groups and easily bring the entire class back together when needed.

Raise hand, clap, disagree, speed up, slow down
These are icons students can use to let the teacher know they have a question or comment, react to something or ask the teacher to talk faster or slower.

Chat with the group - Students can send a message to the entire class.

WHAT ARE THE SAFEST SETTINGS FOR ZOOM?

Zoom was originally intended to be used in business settings, where most folks try their best to act professionally. Kids, not so much. That's why it's really important for both teachers and students to know the best settings and features to use to boost learning and minimize disruption. Here are a few key settings for keeping the peace in class.

Random meeting ID - Though you can use the same meeting ID for every class, Zoom recommends teachers use random meeting IDs.

Mute - Students can -- and should -- mute themselves when they are not speaking. The teacher can also mute students individually or all at once.

Chat - The teacher can control whether students can chat publicly and privately.

Disable video - Students can join the meeting with audio only and turn on the video once they are ready. Teachers can also disable an individual student's video.

Nonverbal feedback - Zoom includes icons that allow students to raise their hands, give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down to respond to a question and even let the teacher know they need a break, all without interrupting the class.

Waiting rooms - This is like a lobby. Participants are held in a virtual room until the teacher admits them one by one. This helps to prevent outsiders from gaining access to the class.

RESOURCES

How to Set up the Zoom App for Parents, Teachers and Students

How to Use Zoom for Parents and Students

Comprehensive Guide to Educating Through Zoom